

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 FPC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 AGR-05 INT-05 IGA-02 H-02 /052 W
----- 043640

R 200915Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4224

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ECRE, EAGR, ADB, IBRD, PK

SUBJECT: TARBELA DAM REPORT OF IBRD VICE PRESIDENT

REF: (A) 75 ISLAMABAD 10588, (B) ISLAMABAD 142,

BEGIN SUMMARY: IBRD V

ME PRESIDENT CHADENET REPORTS

TARBELA DAM NOW COMPLETED FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES.

STILLING BASIN REPAIRS WILL BE COMPLETED EARLY APRIL

IN TIME FOR IRRIGATION RELEASES WHEN NEEDED. LEAKS ARE

NOW REPAIRED OR OF MINOR CONCERN. POWER TURBINES

EXPECTED TO BEGIN TO COME ON-STREAM IN DECEMBER 1976.

END SUMMARY.

1. VISITING VICE PRESIDENT CHADENET OF THE IBRD

YESTERDAY CONCLUDED HIS CURRENT VISIT TO PAKISTAN WITH

THE CUSTOMARY TEA FOR THE CONSORTIUM AMBASSADORS. IN

WHAT GAVE THE APPEARANCE OF BEING HIS LAST MEETING WITH

US HE SAID HIS BRIEFING WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY A "NON-

STORY." HE USED THIS EXPRESSION TO ILLUSTRATE THAT,

UNLIKE IN THE PAST, HIS MAIN MESSAGE THIS TIME WAS THAT

FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES THE TARBELA PROJECT WAS FINISHED,

AND THAT THERE NO LONGER APPEARED TO BE ANY OBSTACLE THAT

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WOULD AFFECT THE OPERATION OF TARBELA FROM CARRYING OUT
ITS IRRIGATION AND POWER FUNCTIONS AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

2. CHADENET SAID THAT COMPLETION OF THE STILLING BASINS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MAY, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT SERIOUS AS IRRIGATION WATERS WERE NEEDED BEFORE THEN, WOULD NOW BE FINISHED SOMETIME IN THE FIRST FIVE DAYS OF APRIL. HE SAID THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT HAD BEEN DUE TO REALLY OUT-STANDING WORK ON THE PART OF ALL THOSE INVOLVED ON THYF;

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-. IT APPEARED, THEREFORE, THAT THE TUNNELS COULD BE PUT IN OPERATION AT JUST ABOUT THE VERY DAY THEY WOULD BE NEEDED; I.E. WHEN THE UPPER RESERVE HAD BEEN USED UP. HE THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT AFTER THE FIRST WEEK IN APRIL TARBELA COULD BE USED AS A NORMAL IRRIGATION PROJECT.

3. CHADENET SAID IT APPEARED THAT THE POWER GENERATING TURBINES COULD COME ON-STREAM AT ABOUT THE RATE OF ONE A MONTH, BEGINNING IN DECEMBER. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THESE DATES MOST POSSIBLE BE ADVANCED BY ONE OR TWO MONTHS. HE INDICATED THAT IT APPEARED THAT A VERY MINOR PART OF THE ENTIRE POWER PROJECT, MINOR SWITCHING EQUIPMENT BEING MANUFACTURED IN PAKISTAN, MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE THE CRITICAL ELEMENT TIME-WISE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS FULLY RECOGNIZED AS OF NOW AND THE PAKS WERE TAKING ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO SPEED UP MANUFACTURE OF THESE ITEMS.

4. CHADENET ALSO INDICATED THAT LEAKS WERE UNDER CONTROL AND WITHIN NORMAL LIMITATIONS. ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF THE SINK HOLES HAVE NOW BEEN TREATED AND THIS SEEMED TO BE UNDER CONTROL. HE SAID THE ENGINEERS AT TARBELA WERE NOW DEBATING AS TO WHETHER THIS MATTER WAS REALLY AS IMPORTANT AS THEY ONCE THOUGHT IT WAS.

5. CHADENET SAID TUNNEL NO 2 WAS STILL LEAKING AT THE RATE OF 50 TO 70 CFS AND ITS CAUSE REMAINED A MYSTERY AS PREVIOUS ASSUMPTION THAT IT WAS CAUSED BY AN IMPROPER VENTILATION EXIT HAD PROVED FALSE. THIS WAS LOOKED UPON IN TARBELA AS BEING PRIMARILY A NUISANCE AND AN ANNOYANCE THAT THE CAUSE HAD NOT BEEN FOUND. DEEP WATER DIVERS
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WERE GOING TO GO DOWN AGAIN ON THE 19TH FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION. IF THEY WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL THIS TIME HE ASSUMED THERE WOULD BE FURTHER EFFORTS IN THE LOW WATER SEASON. HE MADE THE POINT THAT THIS TUNNEL IS TO BE SHIFTED TO POWER IN ANY EVENT IN 1978 AND AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT THE EXPERTS HAD NO REAL CONCERN OVER THIS MATTER. HE CAUTIONED THEREFORE THAT WE NOT BE CONCERNED IF WE HEARD CONTINUED REPORTS AND CRITICISM ON THIS ASPECT OF THE PROJECT.

6. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF INSURANCE CLAIMS RE TARBELA, CHADENET SAID THAT THE LONG PROCESS OF CLAIMS AND COUNTERCLAIMS WAS ONLY JUST BEGINNING AND THAT IT COULD GO ON FOR QUITE A LONG TIME. HE WAS THEREFORE NOT IN A POSITION TO FORECASE HOW THESE COMPLICATED MATTERS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE DECIDED. HE WAS PARTICULARLY COMPLIMENTARY THAT THESE ISSUES HAD UP UNTIL NOW BEEN GIVEN SECOND PRIORITY OVER THE ALL IMPORTANT TASK OF ACTUALLY GOING AHEAD AND FINISHING THE PROJECT WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED. HE THOUGHT THE PAK GOVERNMENT ITSELF HAD BEHAVED IN A VERY EXEMPLARY MANNER ON THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM AS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO PROCEED IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD HAVE RAISED EMOTIONS AND DISRUPTED WORKING CONDITIONS AT THE DAM SITE ITSELF.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, DAMS, HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, RESERVOIRS, TARBELA DAM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISLAMA01859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760066-0034
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760231/aaaabamy.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ISLAMABAD 10588, 76 ISLAMABAD 142
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TARBELA DAM REPORT OF IBRD VICE PRESIDENT
TAGS: ENRG, ECRE, EAGR, PK, ADB, IBRD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006